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M.L.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

JONES et al

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Group:

National Phase of: **PCT/GB00/00375**

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Examiner:

For: **DATABASE SYSTEM**

* * * * *

July 10, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

INS. B 12/ 3. (Amended) A requirement management database system according to claim

1 in which said means for assigning identifiers assigns identifiers comprising:

A1
Cont a first part identifying the set of elements to which the identifier is assigned;

a second part identifying the data element to which the identifier is assigned

within the set of elements;

a third part indicating the type of data element to which the identifier is assigned.

4. (Amended) A requirements management database system according to claim

1 in which the means for establishing a set of links is operable to establish a further set